

PROTECT

News From The Tennessee Environmental Council

Breaking News: Keeping You Informed

TEC welcomes New Executive Director:

John McFadden will be joining the Tennessee Environmental Council Staff in October as Executive Director. He will start out part time with us in order to continue his current work with the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and the Harpeth River Watershed Association. As many may know, John began his conservation career with TEC in 1989 as the Clean Water Project Coordinator. We are excited about the good things to come with his re-commitment to TEC.

John has worked in the conservation field for the past 18 years since graduating from Tennessee Technological University. His conservation experience includes an array of environmental work including, watershed planning and modeling, river restoration, permit negotiations, development and project management. In addition, he has been recognized by federal and state court systems as an expert on water quality related matters and often times quoted in the local media (although he says that does not mean much!). He currently works with the Harpeth River Watershed Association and Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association as Director of Science and Restoration programs.

John created what many know as the Duck River Opportunities Project, a proactive, cooperative attempt to begin restoration work in parts of one of the most biologically diverse river systems in the world (you will be hearing more about the Duck!). John has been project director for DROP, a project of Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and looks forward to a continued partnership with TSRA. He enjoys backpacking, fishing, canoeing, and mountain biking and lives in Wilson County with his 6 year old son Elijah (see picture below).



McFadden's son Elijah fishing on a recent trip to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

TEC Co Sponsors Dr. Helen Caldicott Lecture

Tuesday October 3 at Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University

Nuclear power is an issue which has a larger effect on Tennesseans than you may realize. Our state already has the Oak Ridge Nuclear Facilities; TVA has several nuclear power plants and is considering expanding. Nuclear power is being touted as an alternative to green house gas producing practices. However, Dr. Caldicott will point out the long term danger of this “solution” and discuss the argument she has made in her book that “Nuclear Power Is Not the Answer”. Lecture begins at 7:00 p. m. with book signing and reception to follow.

Transportation Update:

Nashville introduces new commuter rail, the Music City Star. The train travels from Lebanon to Riverfront Park in downtown Nashville with stops in Martha, Mt. Juliet, Hermitage, and Donelson. Free park and ride lots are available at the stations and from Riverfront you can catch MTA shuttles to your place of work at no extra charge. By riding the train you will not only help cut down on CO2 emissions and traffic congestion, but you'll also save money! Get this:

Driving = \$690- \$880 per month

Train = \$168 per month

Find out more details at www.musiccitystar.org.

Mountain Top Removal in East Tennessee:

Mountain Top Removal and Cross Ridge Mining are destructive practices used in coal mining. These practices pose an enormous threat to the mountains and wildlife in East Tennessee. Currently, companies are trying to get permits to mine in the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee, specifically the 53,000 acres in the Wildlife Management Area at Royal Blue. Not only would allowing this be destructive for the aesthetics, habitats, and wildlife, but studies have shown that Cross Ridge Mining and Mountain Top Removal have negative effects on water quality due to erosion and excessive quantities of silt. Environmentalists are urging Governor Bredesen to uphold TN Water Quality Law and thus keep these mining practices out of Tennessee. For more info see www.socm.org/stripmining.html.



An illustration of the devastation caused by Mountain Top Removal.

Take ACTION!

Can I Really Make a Difference??? (YES, YOU CAN!)

These days there is a lot of hype: recycle, buy organic and fair trade. One might wonder, with the magnitude of environmental problems, do the seemingly small changes we make in our daily lives really matter?

According to J. M. Hirsch of the Associated Press, there is power in the collective choices and actions of individuals. While one person recycling their garbage won't make a difference, when many people do the results are staggering. For example, consumer's purchases have already driven mainstream companies to participate in the eco organic market.

Ways to maximize your effect:

- 1) Buy local goods.
- 2) Read the fine print and make sure green products are "certified" (e.g. organic).
- 3) Consume less

For full article go to www.enn.com/today.html?id=11107.

If you don't take action, who will?!? You can do it!

At Home...

Bundle Up Your Water Heater!

Winter is approaching, and we are not the only ones who need to rug up. Fitting your water heater with an insulation blanket (costing between \$ 10 and \$20) in any season can reduce heat loss by 25 to 45 %! This will in turn lower your energy usage, contribution to carbon emissions, and water heating cost by 4 to 9% (according to the US Dept of Energy's Consumer guide). See http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/water_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=13070 for more info. Insulation blankets are available at most home improvement stores, just make sure you get a high R value (10 is recommended for maximum effectiveness).

Want to boost your savings even higher? Turn the temperature on your water heater down as low as possible while still meeting your hot water needs to save additional energy and money. This especially applies during warmer months *AND* after the installation of a water heater blanket

How to Buy Green Power:

Are you interested in powering your home with green power? Concerned about the high cost? With TVA's Green Power Switch program you can buy as little or as much green power as you like. For more info visit www.tva.com/greenpowerswitch/

Calendar of Events:

Lecture: "An Evening With William McDonough", Tuesday Sept. 26, 7:00 p.m., Benton Chapel at Vanderbilt University. No charge. Mr. McDonough, recipient of the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development, will talk about how he has set new standards for economic prosperity and environmental integrity working hand in hand. See www.tnfund.org/events for more info.

Lecture: "Nuclear Power Is Not the Answer" with Dr. Helen Caldicott. Tuesday Oct. 3, 7:00 p.m. Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, 2400 Blakemore Ave. No charge.

Save the Date!

December 6, 2006 TEC's Annual Concert Benefit at the Belcourt Theater. Artists TBA. Ideas welcome!

Another GREAT Way To Make a Difference?

Join TEC Today!

For membership information go to http://tectn.org/Get_Involved-Join.htm

***Special thanks to Marketing Intern, Amy Cornelius, for producing
this newsletter***